

Modern Diner
13 Dexter Street
Pawtucket
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-385

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Rhode Island	COUNTY Providence	TOWN OR VICINITY Pawtucket
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Modern Diner		HABS NO. RI-385
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 13 Dexter Street UTM coordinates 19.301890.4638800		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1940	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) J.B. Judkins Company (manufacturer)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Modern Diner is one of two remaining Sterling Streamliners, a line of customized, factory-built, "modernistic" diners manufactured in the 1930s and early 1940s by the J.B. Judkins Co. of Merrimack, Mass. It is a landmark in the history of American design and food-service merchandising.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Glass block foundation, pre-fabricated steel-clad exterior walls, brick rear wing		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See sketch plan		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE One-story structure with a canted bow end with narrow, slit-like windows and a barrel roof. Exterior is vitreous enamel in yell-beige tone accented with a maroon window band, maroon pin-striping and stainless steel trim. Central entrance door is single panel of ribbed stainless steel with an oval window and a curvilinear Art Deco push bar.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Eleven stool counter, seven 4-customer booths and two 2-customer booths. Back bar sheathed in stainless steel. Above bar is hood faced in mahogany-grained formica. Segmental arch ceiling covered with beige formica panels. Window casings are wood and metal railroad-type sash is screened by venetian blinds.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Flat-roofed vestibule added to entrance.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition, used as diner		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Refer to National Register nomination for complete history and description of the Modern Diner.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register nomination, November 1977		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eileen Ameen, Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency		DATE January 1984

MODERN DINER
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND
SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

